



SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217
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Update from the Director

Randy Vaughn

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be

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working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

About the Board

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine consists of six members: five licensed and practicing veterinarians and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets six times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed veterinarians, veterinarian technicians and faculty veterinarians in Georgia. The Board reviews applications, administers examinations, licenses qualified applicants and regulates the practice of licensees throughout the state.

The practice of veterinary medicine consists of the diagnosis, care and treatment of animal abnormalities or diseases. As a learned science, licensure is considered after meeting specific veterinary education and examination requirements.

The Board regulates individual practitioners of veterinary medicine and requires each licensed veterinarian to maintain minimum standards of care, at the facility where he or she is employed, as set forth in the Board's rules.

2010 Meeting Dates

June 23, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 August 4, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 October 6, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 December 1, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at:
www.sos.ga.gov/plb/veterinary

Board Members and Staff

Hugh Hill, DVM, President
 Needham Bateman, DVM, Vice President
 Henry E. Bohn, DVM
 Jan Hines, DVM
 Charles Lance, Consumer Member
 Becky E. Malphus, DVM

Anita Martin
 Executive Director
 Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine

Active Licensees

Veterinarian: 3,190
 Veterinary Technician: 758
 Veterinary Faculty: 146

Expiration Dates

Veterinarian – December 31 of even numbered years
Veterinary Faculty – December 31 of even numbered years
Veterinary Technician – December 31 of even numbered years

"It is illegal to practice as a veterinarian, veterinary technician or veterinary faculty member with an expired license."

Actions Taken by the Board

February: The Board elected the following new officers for 2010:

- Needham Bateman, DVM, Chamblee: President
- Jan Hines, DVM, Alpharetta: Vice President

The Board voted to adopt amendments to Board Rule 700-6-.01, Application for Registration of Veterinary Technicians: Removes the ability to be licensed by on the job training.

The Board voted to post amendments to Board Rule 700-2-.02, Application for licensure and Board Rule 700-2-.03, Examination to Allow for Acceptance of the PAVE Foreign Equivalency.

License Renewal Process

How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

Disciplinary Issues:

The board addresses these issues on a case-by-case basis and takes these matters very seriously applying sanctions to those who violate the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/veterinary.

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine website.

Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-50-41 or at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19, which can be found on the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine website.

Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine to regulate the licensing and practice of funeral services. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43–50 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted online at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Board's website.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207–2440.